

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01
MCE-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/107 W

-----102572 240139Z /70

R 231121Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6655
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1181

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, PEPR, CD
SUBJECT: CHADIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS TO ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOOSE

REF: STATE 70685

SUMMARY: DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE OVERLY CONCERNED
OR TAKE ANY ACTION ON AMBASSADOR GABA'S REMARKS (SEE
REFERENCE) AT PRESENT. HIS INTSRUCTION OBVIOUSLY WERE
SENT DURING THE PERIOD PRESIDENT MALLOUM WAS IN DESPAIR
AND UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM QADHAFI, THE SOVIETS AND
THE PRO-LIBYAN MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME MILITARY
COUNCIL. THE OUTCOME OF THE FRENCH ELECTIONS SHOULD REASSURE
MALLOUM ON THE CONTINUANCE OF FRENCH MILITARY
ASSISTANCE. IF THIS IS COMBINED WITH INCONCLUSIVE
RESULTS FROM SEBHA II, I DOUBT IF WE WOULD HEAR MUCH
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MORE ABOUT CHADIAN UNEASINESS OVER PICTURE OF CLOSE
COOPERATION WITH US IN NON MILITARY SPHERE. HOWEVER,
SHOULD SEBHA II RESULT IN SIGNIFTAANT CHADIAN
CONCESSIONS TO LIBYA, OUR ENTIRE PRESENCE AND PROGRAMS
ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE REVISED AND ALTERED (SEPARATE
TELEGRAM WILL FOLLOW WHEN DEVELOPMENTS
AT SEBHA ARE CLEARER).

1. I AM SOMEWHAT PUZZLED AS TO SPECIFICALLY WHAT AMBASSADOR HAD IN MIND ABOUT US PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPICTING ATMOSPHERE OF CLOSE US CHADIAN COOPERATION IN NON MILITARY SPHERES. OUR ONLY LOCAL PUBLICITY HAS BEEN THE OCCASIONAL MENTION IN PRESS AND ON RADIO OF THE SIGNING OF INDIVIDUAL AID AGREEMENTS (AS MATTER OF FACT, LAST FOUR SUCH AGREEMENTS HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN MENTIONED). ON THE OTHER HAND THERE ARE A GOOD MANY OF US HERE, AND IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE SOVIETS AND CHINESE WE DOMOVE OUT INTO CHADIAN SOCIETY (I WOULD HAVE IT NO OTHER WAY), AND WE DO HAVE AN EXTREMELY BUSY AND EFFECTIVE CULTURAL CENTER OPERATION. WITH ABOUT DOLS 17 MILLION PROGRAMED AS US ASSISTANCE TO CHAD THIS YEAR, WE ARE BOUND TO HAVE QUOTE CLOSE UNQUOTE RELATIONS.

2. WE HAVE GOOD INFORMATION THAT PART OF QADHAFI'S DEMANDS IN PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS IS THE REMOVAL OF FRENCH AND US PRESENCE IN CHAD. MINSITER OF HEALTH DJOGO HAS CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THIS WOULD INCLUDE REMOVAL OF AID, PEACE CORPS, ICA AND DEFENSE PERSONNEL. I FEEL SURE QADHAFI OFFERED A GREAT EAL HARD CASH TO MALLOUM AS AN INCENTIVE AND THIS JUST HAVE BEEN TEMPTING TO AN ALMOST BANKRUPT GOVERNMENT WHICH IS NOT OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MANY OF OUR AID PROGRAMS
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AND PROCEDURES ANYWAY. HOWEVER, DO NOT BELIEVE MALLOUM CAN OR WILL IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS ACCEPT THE DEMAND.

3. SIMILARLY THE SOVIETS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT OUR PRESENCE HERE. IN THEIR CASE IT IS LARGELY SOUR GRAPES, BUT AGAIN IF MALLOUM WERE TO DECIDE TO MEET LIBYAN DEMANDS HE WOULD WANT TO PLEASE SOVIETS ALSO. SOVIETS HAVE BEEN HAVING SEVERE TROUBLES WITH GOVERNMENT OVER QUALITY AND CHADIAN SHARE OF COSTS OF THE PERSONNEL THEY HAVE BEEN SENDING TO ASSIST CHAD. SITUATION HAS RESULTED IN CURTAILMENT OF NUMBERS INVOLVED. THIS IS IN HARSH CONTRAST TO THE FINE JOB BEING DONE BY THE PEACE CORPS AT ALMOST NO COST TO THE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS PERSONALLY MIFFED WHEN AN UNFORTUNATE OVERLAPPING IN SOCIAL CALENDARS LAST MONTH SAW SOME 500 GUESTS AT MY RESIDENCE FOR A PERFORMANCE OF MEMPHIS SLIM, WHILE ABOUT 50 SHOWED UP FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RED ARMY.

4. WITHIN THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, MINISTER OF EDUCATION GOUARA LASSOQ HAS BEEN THE MOST ARDENT

SUPPORTER OF CONCESSIONS TO LIBYA. IAB THIS GUISE, HE HAS BEEN USING THE CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATION BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT DJIME AND HIMSELF AGAINST THE FORMER. IN ADDITION, HE HAS APPARENTLY BRIEFED QADHAFI ON US ACTIVITIES IN CHAD, WHICH HAS GIVEN QADHAFI THE INFORMATION HE NEEDED TO MAKE SPECIFIC DEMANDS FOR THE REMOVAL OF US PRESENCE AS A PART OF ANY RECONCILIATION EFFORTS.

5. COMMENT: WE SHOULD REST QUIETLY AS WE ARE UNTIL WE SEE HOW SEBHA II COMES OUT, OR UNTIL AMBASSADOR GABA ACCEPTS INVITATION TO PRESENT SPECIFICS.
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